

NAB measures force course closures

by Felicity Jones

Polytechnics are cutting courses and closing departments in anticipation of the National Advisory Body's 10 per cent spending cut and impending financial restraints.

After discussions about the response to NAB decisions and the measures which should be taken to cope with the rising student intake, Manchester Polytechnic's academic board has recommended to its governing body that there should be a 3 per cent cut.

Row over £70,000 work on principal's house

by Olga Wojtas

A row has erupted at St Andrews University over £70,000 renovations to provide a new house for the principal, Dr I. Steven Watson.

The proposal is understood to have been carried by only one vote at a court meeting and it is thought some court members wish their dissent to be formally recorded.

City back in the black

The City University will be back in the black in the coming financial year but the achievement has had an impact on the quality and range of education offered.

The last financial year, 1981-82, turned out to be significantly better than what was predicted.

Of numbers of overseas students failed to hold up over the next two years, however, there would be further adjustments to make and the further drop in grant in real terms next year meant more staff reductions by the end of the academic years 1982-83 and 1983-84.

me only at an early stage, the polytechnic's directorate is "strongly cynical of the whole exercise".

The polytechnic's director Mr Kenneth Green said there was resentment among staff who thought the NAB exercise would prejudice the most cost-effective institutions.

Several options were considered but thrown out by the board. These included isolating some academic subjects for savings printing or making over 100 lectures redundant if the 10 per cent cut was carried out.

One house would be retained for the present and future principal, while the other would be sold, offsetting the cost of the entire project.

Arts students 'get off lightly'

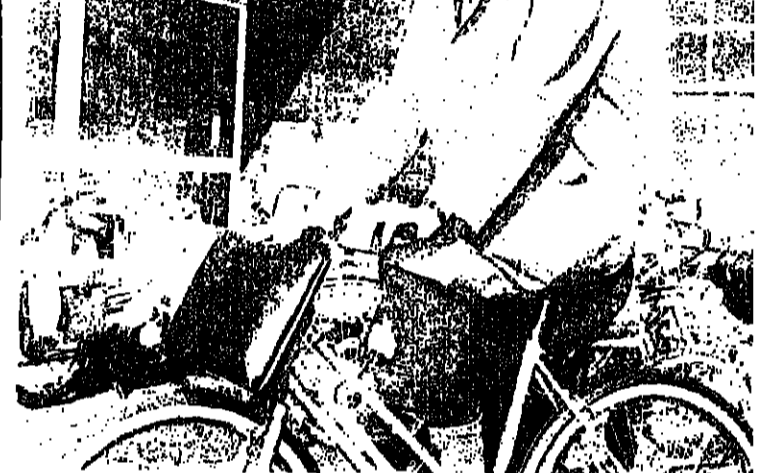
Adult education is too soft on its art students Sir Roy Shaw, Secretary General of The Arts Council, said this week.

Targets change as some teacher training is rerieved

A total of 18 colleges and 11 polytechnics will have different recruitment targets to those proposed in August by Sir Keith Joseph.

In Liverpool, the academic board has thrown out for the second time a list which singled out 20 courses for immediate closure.

Officers of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education at the polytechnic are angry over the lack of consultation and claim that the first they knew of it was when they discovered the name plate of the head of the school has been moved to the learning resources department.



A change of direction for pedal-pusher, Mr Peter Flowerday, who takes up his new duties as assistant director at Middlesex Polytechnic in January.

What complicates it is that Liverpool's education director, Mr Kenneth Antcliffe, is proposing in a paper for committee next week that the institute of higher education should merge with the polytechnic.

The first two units, covering industrial relations and ethnic relations, were set up in 1970 and have budgets this year of £262,000 and £301,000.

Units are generally set up for 10 years and reviewed after five. Staff are employed by the SSRC on nationally agreed rates.

The Ethnic Relations Unit at Aston University estimates a loss of 7 out of 16 posts at the upper end of the cut, and four posts at the lower end.

Exeter and Sheffield universities have both set up commercial ventures to strengthen their industrial links.

Exeter Enterprises Ltd intend to encourage outside concerns to use the whole range of university facilities. The new company at Sheffield, Plant Science Ltd, draws on just one research area.

New ventures lure local industry

Exeter has appointed Mr Bill Wootton, an engineer and management consultant, to survey the services and expertise available on the campus.

Plant Science Ltd in Sheffield is also starting small but its future prospects look bright, as it will act as the commercial arm of the Wolfson Institute of Biotechnology.

SSRC asks units to gauge cuts

by Paul Flather

The Social Science Research Council's five research units have been asked to assess the impact of cuts which could range from 6 to 20 per cent, far above 4 per cent real cuts.

The unit heads have met SSRC officers to discuss the two lists asking for the estimates. This would herald the first step in a bid away from specialist units towards more flexible research support.

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West Sussex 'not most expensive'

Representatives of the West Sussex Institute of Higher Education claimed this week that the college had been falsely dubbed the most expensive institution in the country.

Student numbers were underestimated by about a third in the returns on which the Department of Education and Science based its calculations.

Fewer researchers get SERC grants

by Jon Turney

The number of research groups receiving grants by the Science and Engineering Research Council rose by 10 per cent under 60 per cent in the year just ended in April.

This increased the gap between the number of applications and of awards recommended from 1,565 in 1980/81 to 2,490 in 1981/82.

These figures demonstrate the increasing pressure on the SERC's £20m budget as the university side of the dual support system for research falters.

Professor Richard Markovits, co-director of the Oxford legal centre, said the unit's work would be substantially undermined by such cuts.

The terms of the tender were for teaching civilian engineering to Shrivernham's 400-plus Army officers on first degree courses.

The estimates are expected to go to the SERC's finance and general purposes committee this month, with a final decision from the council in January.

Diploma plan upsets NAB board

by Felicity Jones

Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of the National Advisory Body, had an icy reception at this week's board meeting when the proposal to shift public sector higher education from three-year degrees to two-year vocational diplomas was discussed.

Even before discussing matters arising from the minutes, Mr Ball countered accusations that there had been anything underhand in putting the strategy paper before the committee in the first place.

Mr Ball said the board had expressed reservations about the size of the advanced further education pool taken at this meeting and it was on this basis that the committee advanced further education pool proposals.

The first new visit by the CNAA will take place in March.

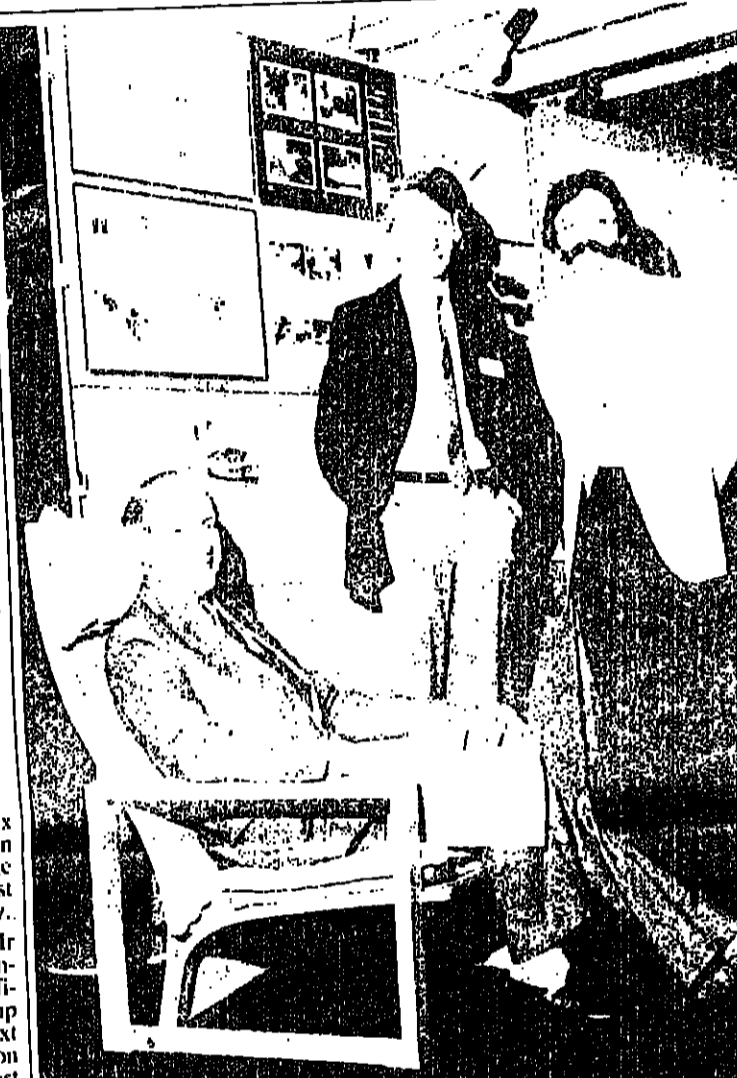
Lord Flowers has been elected chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals for 1983/84.

He is currently a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology and a co-opted member of the energy, transport, technology and research sub-committee of the European Communities Committee.

Lion's share for universities

continued from front page

parents out of the means test system. It is also fearful of the announcement that additional travel expenses will no longer be based on individual claims.



The Minister took the weight off his feet during an art, craft, design and technology exhibition in Stoneleigh recently. Mr William Shelton, under secretary of state for education tried out a chair designed by furniture students at Trent Polytechnic.

Flowers promises stronger role for CVCP

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Union presses Aston to open its accounts

The university lecturers' union is pressing Aston University to allow a firm of accountants to examine its finances to see whether compulsory redundancies are inevitable.

Aberdeen CNAA experiment

by Olga Wojtas

Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology in Aberdeen is to become the guinea pig for the Council for National Academic Awards's new visitation system.

The CNAA chose Robert Gordon's for the experimental 'continuous assessment' scheme because the new system was proposed by the principals of the Scottish central institutions during the CNAA's recent consultations with polytechnics and colleges.

Dr Peter Clarke, principal of Robert Gordon's said: "We thought it would be more helpful and improve relationships if instead of having a big bang visit with 20 or 30 people looking at the place for two days and writing a long report on short contact, we kept up continuing contact with a small group."

Lord Flowers said that while it was good to be asked to lead one's colleagues he thought he was taking on a tough job over a tough period.

At Imperial's recent commemoration day Lord Flowers welcomed the interest expressed by Sir Keith Joseph in the long term needs of and provision for higher education.

Neither the vice-chancellor, Dr Crawford, nor the registrar could be contacted for comment.

App 11 10 116

News in brief

Council may fight tribunal ruling

A local council may appeal to the Employment Appeals Tribunal against an order to reinstate a polytechnic administrator whom governors admit was wrongly stripped of his duties.

General election

General Gallieri has been elected an honorary vice president of Glasgow University's dialectic society.

Video star

The Arts Council and North-East London Polytechnic have combined to offer a video bursary.

MSC boards merge

The Manpower Services Commission's network of local boards comprising representatives from employers, trades unions and local employment interests is to merge from April next year.

Overseas continued

Universiteit van Amsterdam
The Departments of Education of the University of Amsterdam and of the Free University of Amsterdam wish to appoint for a period of four years a full professor (m/f) to lecture in "Education and Ethnic Minorities"

Responsibilities will be: instruction in education and ethnic minorities; carrying out research and stimulating and co-ordinating the research of students and junior colleagues in this area within the organizational framework of a research unit, constituted by both above mentioned universities; participation in organizational and administrative activities of the research unit and the departments of education.

welcome Pay award by union leaders

The increases are weighted in the right manner and are a long overdue recognition that there is a problem of low pay among university staff.

Recommendations from the Central Arbitration Committee, which are binding on both sides, mean an award tipped heavily towards the 50 per cent of staff on the two lowest salary scales for clerical and secretarial staff.

But it still leaves more than 2,000 employees below the maximum level at which family income supplement can be obtained (£4,273).

Table with 4 columns: Grade, Old, New, Percentage Increase. Rows 1-5.

Not enough innovation, professor tells engineers

Universities play at best a minor role in industrial innovation, Professor John Ashworth, vice-chancellor of Salford University, told members of the Institution of Gas Engineers in London this week.

Admissions review welcomed

Oxford University's decision to review its admissions procedures, increasingly a focus for controversy and criticism, has been generally welcomed.



Circus Figure by David Pelletier is one of the works by Canadian sculptors on show at the Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde until November 26.

The review, the first since Oxford colleges adopted a common admission structure 20 years ago, could produce a more unified entry system and help more bright students from state schools to enter the university.

Mr Phillip Whitehead, Labour's spokesman on higher education, said this week the decision to set up a review showed the university was taking seriously Labour's criticisms that an excessive number of private school pupils were admitted to Oxford and Cambridge.

Most admissions tutors welcomed the review as a chance to take stock after 20 years when numerous changes from dropping private scholarships to making conditional offers had occurred.

The review has been agreed in part to buy time for colleges to consider the effects of a new entry scheme proposed by Keeble College to allocate a third of its places through the ordinary University Central Council on Admissions system which is used by all universities except Oxbridge.

Keeble's governing body were meeting this week to decide if the college would still introduce the scheme by itself or wait until it knew the outcome of the review, as seems more likely.

Mr Christopher Ball, warden of Keeble, said his college would give very serious consideration to the decision to hold a review which he personally welcomed.

One consequence of the Keeble scheme would be to force applicants to choose between entering on the strength of A levels or taking the special entry examination.

The terms of reference of the review will be fixed over the next few weeks, and a "heavyweight" found to head it.

Apart from the Keeble scheme, the review will have to examine the results of the new "matriculation offers" now run by 10 colleges who allocate places to state-school students on the strength of an interview, school report, and minimum A level grades.

The review will also have to look at the timing of the entry examination, perhaps abandoning seventh-term entry which tends to discriminate against state schools and setting a for one fourth-term entry.

Oxford's problem is that only half its intake come from state schools compared with two thirds in other universities. The fear is state-school applicants are discouraged, although introduced to break down barriers.

Labour wants seventh-term entry abolished, more matriculation offers, and more mature students admitted. Mr Whitehead said he did not support moves to join UCCA if this means more Etonians with three A grade A levels would gain entry.

YOP's education scheme under used

Most unemployed school-leavers are ignoring their entitlement to attend further education colleges as part of the government Youth Opportunities Programme.

A report by the Further Education Staff College says only about one youngster in five on a YOP scheme of provision within the scheme to spend 20 per cent of the time in education.

It blames a combination of poor coordination between colleges, local authorities and the Manpower Services Commission which organizes the courses; poor publicity; lack of facilities on attendance and eligibility; and the need for staff and courses to be specifically trained and planned for the YOP.

Even those youngsters who do participate have an immensely high drop-out rate: of 400 youngsters eligible to attend the technical college in Gateshead (one of 12 local colleges in an attempt to improve educational take-up) only 259 attended induction sessions and a mere 90 completed the course.

A few words from a head of department who's given up writing

Gerald Ramshaw, Head of Media Services Centre, Polytechnic of Central London.



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Social work 'must be independent'

The academic independence of training for social work must be protected against increasing "political pressures", but it is too early for any radical reforms, a group of professors and lecturers has told an official review.

Evidence compiled by 45 heads of Certificate of Qualification in Social Work courses from 41 universities, polytechnics, and colleges, says the CQSW must remain the basic qualification and more time should be spent assessing the Certificate in Social Services (CSS) courses, which are run jointly with employers.

The review of courses was set up earlier this year by the Central Council for Education and Training

and residential social workers: tougher assessment of CQSW courses applied more uniformly; retaining CQSW as the basic course with freedom to select material.

The group wants a new four stage training programme involving an induction "trainee" period, basic CQSW training, a post-qualification period with protected workloads, and an integrated post-qualification training system.

The group's evidence contrasts strongly with that sent by the 73,000-member National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education which calls for a merger of courses to remove "divisions and misunderstandings".

Rebuild external degree system, says v-c

London University should stop running down its external degree system and rebuild it to meet the heavy demand, its vice-chancellor, Professor Randolph Quirk, has recommended.

Professor Quirk says in a discussion paper that overseas students faced by a shortage of university places in their own countries as well as home students suffering from

like the video disc, cable and direct broadcasting by satellite would give the university a highly flexible means of communication with its students.

New possibilities included allowing students on an external course to then enter a university school to study the subject full-time. Overseas students might do the first year internally then return home to complete the course externally if they could not afford the full fees.

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Administration continued

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Further particulars may be obtained from: Assistant Secretary (Personnel), CHAA 344/294 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BP

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Current salary: £18,354 (inclusive of Outer London Allowance).

Further particulars and forms, returnable by Friday, 26 November, 1982, available from the Director of Education, Regal House, London Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 3QB.

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Further details and application forms, returnable by Friday, 26 November 1982, are obtainable from the Senior Administrative Officer (SAO/PS) at the college. Tel: 01-926 8361. ILEA is an equal opportunities employer.

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Applications are also invited in all subjects at General Certificate Advanced and Ordinary Levels, and Certificate of Secondary Education level, and these will be placed in a bank and considered as vacancies occur.

It is not the practice of the Joint Committee to appoint, as examiners for GCE Advanced and Ordinary Level examinations teachers who are preparing candidates for WJEC examinations. Further particulars and application forms to be returned by 3 December 1982 may be obtained from J. L. Brace, Secretary, Welsh Joint Education Committee, 245 Western Avenue, Cardiff CF5 2YX. A stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed and the outer envelope should be endorsed "Examinations."

Overseas

WARNING - AUSTRALIA

Contract Academic Appointments

Applicants for Australian academic vacancies are warned that several universities are now offering many contract or fixed-term appointments. Sometimes such offers follow misleading advertisements which suggest a continuing or tenured position is available. There have also been some unauthorised and misleading assurances given about the possibility of future continuing employment. Applicants should enquire about these matters to the university concerned or seek further information from F.A.U.S.A. Inserted by L.B. Wallis, General Secretary, Federation of Australian University Staff Associations, 33 Bank Street, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3206, Australia.

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